

**Oversight Committee on Quality of Care in Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities Maryland  
Department of Aging**

**August 27, 2020 (Virtual Meeting)**

**1:30 pm – 3:00 pm**

**Draft Minutes**

**Members Present:**

Claudia Balog, 1199 SEIU, United Health Workers East  
Honorable Pamela Beidle, Member of the Finance Committee  
David Cherry, Deputy Director, Long Term Care Unit, Office of Health Care Quality  
Eric Colchamiro, Representing Alzheimer’s Association, Greater MD Chapter  
Virginia Crespo, United Seniors of Maryland  
Stevanne Ellis, State Long-Term Care Ombudsman  
Carol Fenderson, Deputy Secretary, State Programs, Office of Health Care Quality  
Honorable Rona Kramer, Secretary, Maryland Department of Aging  
Hope Morris, Health Facilities Association of Maryland (HFAM)  
Stefani O’Dea, Behavioral Health Association  
Kirsten Robb-McGrath, Director of Health and Behavioral Policy, Department of Disabilities  
Joanne L. Smikle, Consumer Representative  
Lorrie Van Akkeren, Voice for Quality Care  
Heather Zeiss, Assisted Living Facility  
Delegate Lisa Belcastro, House Health and Government Operations Committee

**Members Absent:**

Afshin Abedi, Maryland Association of Adult Day Services  
Steven Bloyd, Assisted Living Facility  
Lee Greenbeck, Maryland Hospital Association  
Catherine Hamel, Maryland Hospital Association  
Beverly Mlynar, Consumer Representative  
Karen Sylvester, AAA  
Odile Brunetto, AAA  
Delegate Ken Kerr, House Health and Government Operations Committee  
Kathy Graning, Mid-Atlantic Lifespan  
Dr. Tricia Nay, OHCC  
Phyllis Meyerson, Maryland Chapter, AARP

**Staff Present:**

Tyler Babich, Department of Legislative Services  
Carol Meek, Maryland Department of Aging

**Guests:**

Tammy Curry  
Danna Kauffman, Schwartz, Metz, & Wise, P.A.  
George Carroll  
Pat O’Connor  
Carol Taliaferro, Prince George’s County

**Greetings:**

Meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Secretary of Aging, Rona Kramer. In her greetings, Secretary Kramer advised that the Department of Aging has ramped up with a high level of activity since the end of February. She furthered that home delivered meals have increased by 500% since the COVID. Secretary Kramer informed the group about the “DME” (Durable Medical Equipment) Program is available to all Marylanders, all ages, free of charge, to obtain walkers, wheelchairs, and other types of medical equipment. The DME is currently open for collections and donations, but not yet for distribution.

In an effort to streamline the meeting, Secretary Kramer asked that only Committee members speak, and to please use the chat box for questions or comments.

Stevanne Ellis took roll call at 1:37 p.m.

### **Approval of the Minutes:**

The Committee Members approved the August 27, 2020 minutes.

### **Updates from Legislative Subcommittee:**

Eric Colchamiro discussed the Subcommittee letter and report that will be submitted for proposed legislation in September. [Click here to view the letter.](#)

Eric began by introducing the report and reviewed it section by section as follows:

- 1) Testing and PPE
  - a. Address social isolation / outdoor and indoor visitation
  - b. Outdoor in place
  - c. Rapid turnaround testing
  - d. Securing facilities
  
- 2) Workforce Safety and Development
  - a. Patient care maintaining quality of staff / staffing shortages / taking care of staff
  - b. Recruitment and staff development – wage studies, tuition incentives to retain staff
  - c. Taskforce to review recruitment and retention – recognizing the value of staff
  - d. Maryland Board of Nursing – increase nursing assistants – waivers in place to increase workforce
  - e. Valuing staff
  
- 3) Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facility Oversight and Transparency of Data
  - a. Notes that despite regulations being in place, OHCQ has done – common fear?
  - b. Should be surveyed on sight annually
  - c. MDH COVID website name
  - d. Decision to update date once a week
  
- 4) Provider Reimbursement and Systems issues
  - a. Medicare increases should be passed along to workers, to provide more competitive wages
  - b. Hospital systems/ entire care spectrum – stop putting them in silos – how do we help them as a whole?

5) Quality of Life for Resident and Staff

- a. Value of Alzheimer's and dementia care standards – staff made to know who to deal with these individuals
- b. Social isolation
- c. Focus on area of care and concern

Eric thanked the Committee for allowing him to present the.

Stevanne Ellis thanked Eric, Senators Beidle and Eckardt and the subcommittee members for their time and work.

**Updates and Discussion from the Committee Members:**

Senator Beidle discussed that she was new to the Committee, and respectfully requested that the last two (2) years of Committee minutes be shared with her.

Secretary Kramer shared that the Department of Aging has put a great deal of focus on the social isolation and is working to bring programs about to combat the issue. Another issue with social isolation and seniors is that not everyone has access to the appropriate technology.

**Other:**

The next meeting will take place on September 17, 2020 at 1:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Carol Meek